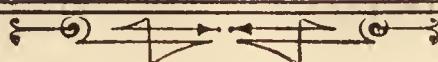


.. DROYLSDEN ..
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.

1915.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE:
GRIFFIN & SHEARD, PRINTERS, 7, STAMFORD ARCADE.

URBAN DISTRICT OF DROYLSDEN.

AREA—1144 acres.

POPULATION—At Census 1901.....11,097

At Census 1911.....13,259

Estimated at middle of 191513,329

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—

At Census 1901..... 2,447

Average No. of persons per house... 4·53

At Census 1911 2,992

Average No. of persons per house .. 4·43

At end of 1915 3180

Average No. of persons per house... 4·19

BIRTH RATE FOR 1915..... 23·6

DEATH RATE FOR 1915 17·0

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1915.
TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DROYLSDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as to the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1915.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year the births of 315 persons (154 males and 161 females) were registered. Two legitimate males were transferred to the district. Of these births two males and two females were illegitimate. The birth rate for the year is 23.6 per 1,000, which, under the conditions prevailing owing to the war, is not unsatisfactory.

DEATH RATE.

During the year the deaths of 184 persons were registered in the district, and the deaths of 43 residents registered elsewhere were transferred here. This total of 227 deaths (104 males and 123 females) gives a death rate of 17 per 1,000 of the population, which is the highest recorded since 1906.

Of the deaths 41, or 18 per cent., were children under one year of age; from one year and under two years of age there were 6 deaths or 2.6 per cent.; from two years and under five years of age there were 10 deaths or 4 per cent.; from five years and under fifteen years of age there were 10 deaths or 4 per cent.; from fifteen years and under twenty-five years of age there were 8 deaths or 3.5 per cent.; from twenty-five years and under forty-five years of age there were 38 deaths or 16.7 per cent.; from forty-five years and under sixty-five years of age there were 47 deaths or 20.7 per cent.; from sixty-five years of age and upwards there were 67 deaths or 29 per cent. Eleven males and twenty-two females died between the ages of seventy and eighty years of age, and five males and two females died between the ages of eighty and ninety years of age. One male died at the advanced age of ninety years.

The deaths under one year were 41, and these measured in proportion to the recorded births, give an infantile mortality of 130 per 1,000, which is a little higher than that of the last few years.

Diseases of the respiratory organs, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, caused 49 deaths or 21.5 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 14.5 per cent. in 1914, and 15.5 per cent. in 1913.

All tubercular diseases caused 30 deaths, or 13 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 12.5 per cent. in 1914, 6.9 per cent. in 1913, 9.4 per cent. in 1912, and 12.3 per cent. in 1911.

Diseases of the zymotic or infectious class caused 13 deaths:—enteric fever 3, measles 5, whooping cough 3, and diphtheria 2. This gives a zymotic death rate of .9 per 1000.

The following table will show the number of deaths from the chief zymotic diseases during the last ten years.

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	18	5	8	7	11	7	9	3	5	5
Scarlet Fever	8	4	0	5	1	0	0	0	4	0
Whooping Cough ..	1	3	7	0	13	2	9	3	3	3
Diphtheria	3	3	1	4	5	4	1	0	1	2
Enteric Fever	2	2	1	4	2	2	2	0	2	3
 Totals	27	17	17	20	32	15	21	6	15	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year, under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts, 170 cases of infectious disease were notified.

The cases notified were as follows:—diphtheria 8, erysipelas 14, scarlet fever 50, enteric fever 26, puerperal fever 2, ophthalmia neonatorum 2, pulmonary tuberculosis 47, and other forms of tuberculosis 21.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the last ten years:—

	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria.....	19	14	7	18	18	15	15	9	9	8
Erysipelas	8	6	8	15	12	10	9	8	14	14
Scarlet Fever	143	63	47	188	88	31	32	45	81	50
Enteric Fever	11	8	10	25	19	11	7	8	5	26
Puerperal Fever	2	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	2
Poliomyelitis.....	Not notifiable until 1913							1	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	„	„	„	„	1911	23	52	55	41	47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	„	„	„	„	1913	...	...	24	22	21
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	„	„	„	„	1914	...	...	...	1	2
Totals	183	92	73	248	140	92	118	152	176	170

On the receipt of notification of infectious diseases, enquiries are instituted as soon as possible as to the causes of infection, and the premises examined to ascertain if insanitary conditions existed, and such, where found, are caused to be immediately remedied. Complete isolation of the patients from non-infected members of the household is insisted upon, and when the patients are sufficiently recovered the houses and infected articles therein are thoroughly disinfected by means of formaldehyde vapour and izal fluid. During the year 95 houses were disinfected by the Council, as follows:—after scarlet fever 44, diphtheria 5, typhoid fever 20, erysipelas 1, puerperal fever 1, and tuberculosis 24. Schools were also disinfected on 16 occasions.

Owing to insufficient means of isolation at home 11 cases of scarlet fever, 4 cases of enteric fever and one case of puerperal fever were removed to the Hyde Hospital for Infectious Diseases, where six beds are retained (one for smallpox and five for other diseases) at an annual retaining fee of £66. As many beds as required, in addition to the above, are available up to the limit of accommodation of the hospital. The cost of maintenance of these patients amounted to the additional sum of £178 3s. 0d.

A Steam Disinfector (Alliott's Patent) is in use at the Destructor Works, and a suitable four-wheeled van and a small hand van are available for conveying infected articles to and from the Disinfecting Station.

Under the Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Order, 1910, 48,000 units of Diphtheric Anti-Toxin were administered by practitioners to patients resident in the district suffering from Diphtheria.

It has not been found necessary to close any schools in the district on account of infectious disease.

A measure entitled The Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Regulations 1915, has been enacted making compulsory the notification of measles and German measles, as from the 1st January, 1916. Copies of the Order and Books of Notification Forms have been supplied to the local Medical Practitioners, and public notice has been given relative to the notification of these diseases by parents and guardians.

Posters and leaflets were distributed freely throughout the whole of the district demonstrating the danger to Health arising from the contamination of food by the common house fly.

I beg to present a short Report on the epidemic of
TYPHOID FEVER,

which broke out in Droylsden in March and April, 1915.

On MARCH 31st, 1915, three cases of Typhoid Fever were notified.

The first case was that of James Burke, age 27, Collier, 2, Peter Street, Droylsden. He had had a quart of mussels about a month before, and his usual supply of milk was obtained from Mr. Williamson, a purveyor of milk in the District. This case was nursed at home.

The other two cases were those of Joseph W. Clifford, age 18, Bleacher, and Mary E. Clifford, age 21, Winder, 23, Chapel Street, Droylsden. Milk was supplied to the house from Williamson. The cases were nursed at home.

On APRIL 5th, 1915, the cases of Agnes Hampson, age 53, and her daughter, Alice Hampson, age 20, living at 222, Fairfield Road, Droylsden, a small shop also selling milk, were notified. The milk supplied to the shop was obtained from Melling, Farmer, Audenshaw. The shop was closed for an indefinite time.

In the meantime I had grown very suspicious of a patient of my own having typhoid fever, who also obtained her milk from Williamson, and I heard unofficially of three or four cases of typhoid fever in Manchester who obtained milk from Melling's Farm.

I, therefore, on April 5th, 1915, along with Mr. Frank Schofield, the Inspector of Nuisances, proceeded to Mr. Williamson's. I found that Mr. Williamson and his son managed the business. He did not keep any cows and had not done so for about two years, but obtained all his milk—about 2 doz. quarts every morning—from Mr. George Hines, Cattle Dealer, Audenshaw. No history of typhoid fever or other suspicious illness could be obtained from the Williamson family.

Mr. Williamson informed me that Mr. Melling also obtained some of his milk from Mr. George Hines. Strongly suspecting Mr. George Hines' milk to be the cause of the outbreak, I went to see Dr. Cheetham, the Medical Officer of Health for Audenshaw, but found he was not at home. On account of the day being Easter Bank Holiday, the Audenshaw Council Officials were also not available. In the evening I met Dr. Cheetham by appointment, and together we went to Mr. Hines' only to find him out. Mrs. Hines informed us that neither she, nor her daughter (the latter having had an attack of typhoid fever several years ago) did anything at the farm. We arranged for Mr. Hines to see Dr. Cheetham early on April 6th, 1916.

At noon, on April 6th, I received a letter from Dr. Cheetham, who had visited Mr. Hines' farm. He found that the cowman was the only person working there, that he had everything to do with the milk, and distributed it to Mr. Melling and Mr. Williamson, who both called for it. The cans were washed in town's water, boiled by steam supplied from Messrs. Lingard's mill. The shippons and yard gave no clue to the trouble, and the cowman stated that he had never been ill in his life.

In the afternoon I visited Dr. Niven, Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, who had received four notifications of typhoid fever from the Openshaw district, all supplied by Melling's milk. Dr. Niven wrote Dr. Cheetham offering his assistance, as both Melling's and Hines' farms are in Audenshaw. I notified the state of affairs to Dr. Sergeant, the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Lancaster.

APRIL 7th, 1915. The case of Mrs. Rothwell, 35, Field Street, Droylsden, was notified. Williamson's milk was supplied to this house. Dr. W. St. C. McClure (Dr. Niven's assistant) along with Dr. Cheetham visited Melling's farm, Audenshaw. Careful examination failed to elicit any history of illness in either the family or employees. Specimens of blood taken from each of them all gave a negative Widal reaction.

It was found that Melling obtained from his own cows about 8 dozen quarts of milk a day, and from Hines about $2\frac{1}{2}$ dozen quarts a day. Melling's book showed that about 5 dozen quarts were distributed in Audenshaw, a few quarts in Droylsden, the remainder, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ quarts, in Manchester. He had about 52 customers in Audenshaw, a few in Droylsden, and about 88 in Manchester. His custom was to distribute his own milk first, which enabled him to practically complete his Audenshaw round, call at Hines, and then proceed into Manchester. Assuming Hines' milk to be the source of infection, this will explain why no cases have occurred in the Audenshaw area. Very occasionally Melling got a small quantity of milk from the Railway Station, but he never mixed it with his own.

Dr. McClure and Dr. Cheetham also visited Hines' farm, and found that Williamsan and Melling were the only people supplied with milk.

Hines is a cattle dealer, and seldom visits the farm, and even on these occasions he never has anything to do with the milking. Two men, Robert and Thomas Chadwick, were found to be working on the farm. Robert Chadwick gave a history of being taken ill on March 6th, 1915, with general malaise and back-ache, but did not leave work till March 8th, 1915. He was never so ill that he had to stay in bed, or even consult a doctor, and returned to work on March 15th, 1915. Thomas Chadwick gave no history of illness, and no history of recent illnesses could be obtained from any

members of the Hines' family. Specimens of blood were taken from both Chadwick's. I obtained specimens from the Williamson's.

On APRIL 8th, 1915, Robert Chadwick's blood was reported by Professor Delepine to give a positive Widal reaction; all the others were reported negative.

Dr. Niven wrote Hines telling him the probable nature of R. Chadwick's illness, and offering him a bed in Monsall Fever Hospital. Dr. Cheetham took specimens of blood from all the Hines' family available, and Professor Delepine reported that Geo. Hines gave a positive Widal. No history of a suspicious illness could be obtained from Mr. Hines.

In the meantime Mr. Hines would have nothing to do with the farm, which was being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Mr. Eginton, the Chief County Sanitary Inspector, visited the District, and was informed in detail of the state of affairs and made some investigations.

APRIL 9th, 1915. Three cases were notified, who each obtained their milk from Williamson, and one case was notified which obtained milk from both Joseph Wilson and the Lancashire Hygienic Dairies. This latter case was apparently infected from a different source to the previous cases. The cases John Oldham and Annie Hall were removed to Hospital. Hospital treatment was offered to Jessie Sellars, but refused. I visited Chadwick's home, which is in Droylsden, and found that he had gone to Monsall Isolation Hospital.

APRIL 10th, 1915. Local Medical Practitioners were notified that Widal tests could be taken at the Council's expense.

APRIL 12th, 1915. Four cases were notified, all supplied with Williamson's milk. The case, Bertha Wilkinson, was removed to Hyde Hospital. A letter from the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board was replied to stating that no cases had occurred in any situations likely to prejudice the health of His Majesty's Forces.

APRIL 13th, 1915. Cases notified at the Moss Tavern. Hospital treatment was refused, but satisfactory isolation and nursing secured.

Mr. Eginton visited the District, and took a sample of Williamson's milk for Bacteriological examination. A full list of Williamson's customers and details of cases to date also supplied to him.

APRIL 14th, 1916. Case of Mary Hennessey notified. Milk supplied by Williamson and another. All ashpits where typhoid had occurred were cleansed and disinfected. Arrangements were also made for houses not provided with closets on the water-carriage system to be supplied with special enamel pails.

APRIL 16th, 1916. A Widal test was taken from a suspicious case at 49, Dunkirk Street, Droylsden, and gave a negative reaction.

Dr. Sergeant with Mr. Eginton visited the District and interviewed Councillors Haworth and Axon; the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. Dr. Sergeant afterwards visited and examined patients at 222 Fairfield Road, and 35 Field Street, and took particulars of their cases. The County Medical Officer of Health asked for a report showing the milk supply at each house, the approximate quantity taken by each inmate and the form in which it was taken.

APRIL 17th, 1915. A third case was notified at 23 Chapel Street, Droylsden.

APRIL 26th, 1915. Two cases were notified at 27 Chapel Street, Droylsden. The milk was supplied to the house by Williamson, but neither patient took milk in any form. Hospital treatment was offered but declined.

APRIL 28th, 1915. Report of milk supply forwarded to Dr. Sergeant.

MAY 3rd, 1915. R. Chadwick discharged from the Monsall Fever Hospital cured.

May 4th, 1915. Mr. Eginton visited the District and was again supplied with all information.

May 7th, 1915. Case of Joseph Scaife notified. Milk supply from Geo. Higginbotham. No apparent connection with other cases.

MAY 12th, 1915. Case of Mary Gee notified. Milk supply from James Forshaw, who obtained his milk from Mr. Cordon. No apparent connection with other cases.

Suggested Certificate for Notification of Infectious Disease by Medical Practitioners.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION ACT), 1889, & PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1912—1914 & 1915

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the

I hereby certify and declare that in my opinion

Age.....Sex.....Occupation

Place of Residence at date of
Notification }

Usual place of Residence
(if other than stated above) }

is suffering from.....

Date of onset of Disease Is removal of Case to Hospital desirable ?
or

Date of first appearance of rash..... Date of birth of child

Name and Address of the Parent or other
person (if any) having charge of child }

Whether the case has occurred in private practice or
in practice as Medical Officer of any Public Body or
Institution ; if so what Body or Institution ? }

Dated this.....day of.....19

Signature of Notifying Practitioner and Address

.....

TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMIC.

No.	Date of Notification	NAME	ADDRESS	Age	Sex	Date of onset of Illness	Occupation	Milk Supply	No. of people in house	No. of Rooms	Sanitary Accommodation	Removed to Hospital	Recovery or Death	REMARKS
1	31/3/15	James Burke	2, Peter-street	27	M.	10/3/15	Collier	Williamson	3	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	Bed and Bedding provided
2	31/3/15	Jos. W. Clifford ...	23, Chapel-street...	18	M.	17/3/15	Bleacher	do.	10	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	Removal to Hospital offered but refused. Accommodation found for Children
3	31/3/15	Mary E. Clifford...	do.	21	F.	Xmas, /14	Winder	do.	10	4	W. C.	No	Death	do Died 15/4/15 Bedding destroyed
4	5/4/15	Alice Hampson ...	222, Fairfield-road.	20	F.	25/3/15	Shop Assistant ..	Melling	5	5	W. C.	No	Rec.	Milkshop closed till end of illness
5	5/4/15	Agnes Hampson ...	do.	53	F.	23/3/15	Shop-keeper.....	do.	5	5	W. C.	No	Death	Died 6/5/5
6	7/4/15	Mary Rothwell ...	35, Field-street ...	52	F.	26/3/15	Housewife	Williamson	8	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
7	9/4/15	John Oldham	227a, Market-street	14	M.	2/4/15	School	do.	7	4	W. C.	Yes	Rec.	Confectioner's Shop
8	9/4/15	Annie Hall	10, Peter-street ...	22	F.	30/3/15	Nil	do.	4	4	W. C.	Yes	Rec.	No means of adequate nursing
9	9/4/15	John Sweeney	123, Market-street.	39	M.	19/3/15	Labourer	do.	4	3	W. C.	No	Rec.	Draper's Shop. Separate tenant
10	9/4/15	Jessie Sellars	24, Ellen-street ...	41	F.	26/3/15	Housewife	Wilson's and Lancs. Hygenic Dairy	8	4	Privy	No	Rec.	Removal to Hospital offered but refused. Other Accommodation found for Children
11	12/4/15	Martha Nadin.....	1, Williamson-lane.	35	F.	17/3/15	Winder	Williamson	5	7	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
12	12/4/15	Ethel Bates.....	14, Hart-street.....	15	F.	31/3/15	do.	do.	3	4	Privy	No	Rec.	.....
13	12/4/15	Bertha Wilkinson	6, Mary-street	12	F.	7/4/15	School	do.	9	5	Privy	Yes	Death	.....
14	12/4/15	Alice Marland.....	275, Market-street..	29	F.	21/3/15	Reeler	do.	4	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
15	18/4/15	Geo. Hikin	'Moss Tavern' ...	40	M.	8/4/15	Innkeeper.....	do.	8	4	Privy	No	Rec.	Beerhouse Removal to Hospital offered but refused. Assistance obtained for management of Business
16	14/4/15	Mary Hennessey...	68, Ashton-road ...	25	F.	9/4/15	Nil	Williamson, Barnes and Slack	6	6	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
17	17/4/15	Thomas Clifford ...	28, Chapel-street...	10	M.	.....	School	Williamson	4	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	3rd Case at this house
18	26/4/15	Harry Caldecutt ...	27, Chapel-street...	16	M.	19/4/15	Bleacher & Dyer	do.	7	5	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
19	26/4/15	Isaac Caldecutt ...	do.	18	M.	12/4/15	Iron-worker	do.	7	5	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
20	6/5/15	Joseph Scaife	20, St. Andrew's Av.	3	M.	25/4/15	Nil	G. Higginbotham. No connection with Hines, Williamson or Melling	6	5	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
21	11/5/15	Mary Gee.....	89, Manchester-rd.	33	F.	1/5/15	Reeler	Forshaw's Shop (Cordon dealer	4	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
22	17/5/15	Mary Burke.....	22, Peter-street ...	22	F.	.....	Housewife	Williamson	3	4	W. C.	Yes	Rec.	Husband has had typhoid
23	9/6/15	Ellen Reed	58, Greenside-lane.	22	F.	24/5/15	Housewife	Kippax and Newton's Dairy	8	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	Baby Sellars nursed at this house during Mrs. Sellars' illness from Typhoid
24	9/6/15	Stephen Johnson...	do.	5	M.	24/5/15	School	do. do.	8	4	W. C.	No	Rec.	.....
25	16/6/15	Sam Sellars	24, Ellen street ...	1½	M.	.....	Nil	Wilson's and Lancs. Hygenic Dairy	8	4	Privy	No	Rec.	.....

The following are details of four cases of Typhoid Fever which occurred within the Manchester City Area:—

Case No.	District	Sex	Age	Date of onset (approx)	Date of Notification.	Milk Supply
1	Manchester	F.	5	March 24th	April 5th	Melling's
2	do	F.	7	March 14th	April 1st	Melling's
3	do	M.	15	March 22nd	April 1st	Melling's
4	do	F.	9	March 25th	April 5th	Melling's

May 17th, 1915. Case of Mary Burke notified. This woman had been nursing her husband, one of the first cases to be notified. Patient removed to Hospital.

JUNE 10th, 1915. Cases of Ellen Reed and Stephen Johnson, brother and sister, notified. The milk had been obtained from various sources. Mrs. Reed had had charge of the baby, Sam Sellars, child of Jessie Sellars, 24, Ellen Street, Droylsden, whilst the latter was ill.

JUNE 16th, 1915. Widal test of Sam Sellars gave positive reaction.

During the investigations it was found that Williamson supplied 43 houses in Droylsden with milk. Cases of typhoid fever occurred at 13 of these houses, and caused the illness of 17 persons, out of a total of 25 cases notified during the epidemic. Melling's milk was the direct cause of two other cases, making a total of 19 cases supplied with Hines' milk. Baby Sellars received the disease from his mother, and in turn infected the patients Reed and Johnson, leaving the cause of infection of only three cases not accounted for—Jessie Sellars, Joseph Scaife and Mary Gee. In each of the latter cases, the source of milk supply was thoroughly investigated, but the inquiries revealed no connection with Hines' milk, nor was there any evidence that visiting had taken place with any of the other affected families. These three cases must therefore be classed as sporadic cases.

In all four patients were removed to the Hyde Isolation Hospital, the man, Robert Chadwick, to Monsall Isolation Hospital, and twenty-one patients were treated at home. One patient died in Hospital, and two at home. Fourteen Widals from suspected Droylsden cases were submitted for examination with the following results:—

Positive reaction 7.

Negative do. 7.

I think there can be no doubt that the illness which compelled Robert Chadwick to absent himself from work was a mild attack of typhoid fever, and that he resumed his occupation while he was still in an infectious state. The milk supplied from the farm was thus therefore inadvertently contaminated.

I append the following table giving details of all cases notified including those which occurred in Manchester,

At the present time no less than four different forms of certificates are in use for the purpose of notifying the various infectious diseases to the Sanitary Authority. I would suggest that the Local Government Board be approached with a view to the adoption of a certificate on the lines of the draft herein, which would be applicable to all Sanitary Authorities and all infectious diseases at present notifiable.

Pamphlets containing directions for the care and feeding of children suffering from diarrhoea were, during the early summer months, supplied to the local practitioners, the Infant Welfare Centre, and the District Nursing Association.

A nurse on the staff of the tuberculosis dispensary for Area 23 (Ashton-under-Lyne, etc.) calls at the Council Offices weekly, and is supplied with information connected with the cases of tuberculosis notified during the previous week. The nurse forthwith visits the homes of the patients and, on the results of her investigations, reports on the environmental conditions existing at each of the premises, are received from the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. J. L. Stewart, in which my attention is drawn to any special defects existing. These defects are immediately examined by the Inspector of Nuisances, and steps taken to cause the same to be remedied. In one instance in which the special defect consisted of a window in a living room which would not open the landlord not only refused to comply with the request to remedy the defect but also gave the tenant notice to quit. Fortunately this case is an isolated one, and it is satisfactory to record that in all other cases the requirements of the Council have been met.

A case has arisen in which a patient in the Union Hospital, suffering from acute tuberculosis of the lungs, demanded his discharge. As the house to which he would have returned was only a four-roomed cottage, already accommodating nine members of his family including young children, his return was considered most undesirable. Representations were accordingly made to the proper Authority, and his continued detention in the Union Hospital was procured under section 22 of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867. As far as can be discovered this is the first instance in the district where action has been taken under this particular section.

INFANT WELFARE.

The notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, became operative on the 1st September, 1915. This Act provides that all births shall be notified to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours by the Medical Practitioner, Mid-wife, or other person in attendance at, or within six hours of, the birth, or by the father of the child. Complete details of these notifications are forwarded weekly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

An Infants' Welfare Centre has been inaugurated where advice is given to mothers and expectant mothers. Meetings are held weekly, and the foundations of an important work are being laid by the ladies of the district, the district nurses and the local medical practitioners. A list of the notified births is forwarded weekly to the Honorary Secretary of the Centre, whose members have undertaken the responsible duty of Visitors pending the decision of the County Council concerning the appointment of a Health Visitor.

HORSE AMBULANCE.

The Horse Ambulance was utilised in connection with 34 private cases, and 1 street accident. The receipts were £11 5s. 0d. against an expenditure of £27 11s. 6d.

HOUSING.

During the year 1915 there were 17 new houses erected and two houses were converted to other purposes, making 3,195 habitable houses in the District. Fifteen houses were found to be untenanted at the end of the year; of the latter, five were combined houses and shops, one was a large detached house, and the remaining nine were of the type suitable for housing of the working classes.

The housing accommodation appears to be adequate for the present requirements of the District. With the exception of three houses, which are supplied with good well or spring water, the whole of the houses are connected to the water service of the Manchester Corporation and a constant supply of excellent water is maintained.

Under the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, special attention was again devoted to the more defective houses in the District. Requisitions to make good defects where necessary, were made in all urgent cases.

The following tables give particulars of the action taken and the general character of the defects found to exist :--

ACTION TAKEN IN 1915.

Total No. of Dwelling-houses inspected.....	138
No of Dwelling-houses inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909.....	8
,, Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation	3
,, Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	3
,, Closing Orders made	8
,, Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders.	10
,, Dwelling-houses demolished	0

GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST.

General dilapidations including defective floors, walls, roofs, fittings and windows, dampness, &c.....	5
Window defects	6
Dampness	4
Defective cellar drains	2
Damage after fire.....	1
No defects	120
 Total number of houses inspected ...	138

The number of houses overcrowded on the basis adopted in the Census Returns, viz.: more than two persons to a room, was found to be two. Both these cases have been remedied.

No troops have been billeted in the District.

A Belgian Refugees' Home in the District provides accommodation for eleven people.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Satisfactory progress can be again reported in the removal of insanitary privy middens, and the conversion of these to the water carriage system, although the actual number falls far below the standard reached in previous years. In dealing with this question the Council have had in mind the instructions of the Treasury, and have not pressed for the carrying out of any improvements unless such were shown to be a serious manace to public health.

During the year 56 privies and eleven pails were abolished and replaced by 99 new water closets. During the conversions, all defective drains, gullies, waste pipes, downfall pipes, and paving of backyards were caused to be made good, and for this purpose 12 Statutory Notices were served. In each case the drainage work was subjected to the water test, and frequent visits of inspection were made by the Inspector of Nuisances as the work proceeded.

The number of privies converted into water closets were :—

In 1909.....	54	In 1913.....	281
1910.....	117	1914.....	191
1911.....	419	1915.....	56
1912.....	402		

The following table shows the work effected during the year :—

ALTERATIONS TO SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

How Effected.	Privies abolished.	Ashpits & Middens abolished.	W.C.'s. abolished	Pails abolished.	New W.C.'s provided.	New Pails Provided.	New Ash Tins Provided.
Converted after service of notices under Public Health Acts	14	16	4	...	18	...	20
Do. do. Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909. ....	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Converted Voluntarily by Owners	24	23	...	1	25	1	38
New Premises .....	...	...	...	...	23	...	17
Converted at Factories and Workshops	18	...	5	10	31	...	...
Totals.....	56	39	9	11	99	1	77

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences in the District at the end of the year, as compared with the previous years :—

Date	W.C.'s.	Waste Water Closets.	Pails.	Privies.	Ashboxes and Tins.	Ashpits and Middens.
At Dec. 31st, 1910 ..	1603	41	22	1761	920	1168
At Dec. 31st, 1911 ..	2109	37	45	1356	1336	911
At Dec. 31st, 1912 ..	2597	37	45	954	1847	692
At Dec. 31st, 1913 ..	2924	37	40	673	2179	509
At Dec. 31st, 1914 ..	3168	39	38	482	2426	399
At Dec. 31st, 1915 ..	3258	39	28	426	2503	360
Increase during 1915..	90	..	..	..	77	..
Decrease during 1915.	..	..	10	56	..	39

NUISANCES.

Approximately 340 nuisances were caused to be abated, and for this purpose it was found necessary to send out 73 Preliminary Notices and 14 Statutory Notices. The owners of property affected by these notices generally displayed great willingness in complying with the requirements of the Council; but magisterial proceedings were necessary in one case. The owner of two dwelling-houses refused to abate certain nuisances arising from defective and insanitary privies, &c., and proceedings were instituted, resulting in an Order being made for the necessary work to be completed within twenty-eight days thereof. The nuisances have now been abated.

The following is a list of the principal Nuisances remedied during the year, as distinguished from the improvements carried out under the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909:—

CLASSIFIED LIST OF NUISANCES
REMEDIED 1915.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NUISANCES	No.
Privies converted to W.C's.....	56
Pails converted to W.C's.	11
Ashpits and middens converted to Ashtins	39
Defective drains	33
do. gullies	20
do. slop-waste pipes	15
do. rain-water pipes	10
do. yard surfaces	30
do. yard walls	12
do. W.C's	5
do. and unsuitable ashbins	29
do. middens	2
No provision for refuse	16
Accumulations of filth	3
do. water	2
do. manure	6
Defective W.C. fittings	8

W.C's stopped up	2
Waste-water closets stopped up	1
Yard drains stopped up	5
Cellar do.	9
Ashpit do.	3
Defective roofs	1
Defective gutter	1
Polluted ditch course	1
Limewashing and cleansing of houses or rooms.....	4
Flooded passages	2
Stench from sewers	3
Defective manhole cover	1
Fowls and pigeons	1
Smoke, soot and grit from chimneys.....	9
<hr/>	
Total.....	340

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

280 detailed observations of the emission of smoke from the chimneys of twenty-three factories and workshops were taken.

The Council have not fixed a time limit for the emission of black smoke, but in nine cases where excessive emissions were observed, the owners' attention was drawn to same with satisfactory results.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The removal of all refuse other than trade refuse is undertaken by the Council free of charge. The dry refuse from ashboxes and tins is removed in the daytime, each receptacle being emptied once per week. One cart is employed regularly on this work, and a further cart is required four days per week. Privy middens, dry ashpits, pails, etc., are attended to regularly as required, and for this purpose one cart, three nights per week, has been found sufficient. 2,210 loads of refuse were removed during the year at a cost of £491. The appended table shows the work done month by month :—

Month 1915.	No. of Privy Middens, &c. Emptied. (night-time)	No. of Loads Removed from Privy Middens, &c. (night-time)	No. of Loads Removed from Dry Ash boxes, Tins, &c. (day-time)	Total No. of Loads Removed
January	103	63	141	204
February	111	63	112	175
March	103	72	138	210
April	117	68	132	200
May	92	56	125	181
June	112	74	124	198
July	101	68	119	187
August	111	66	120	186
September	110	54	126	180
October	110	63	124	187
November	39	25	126	151
December	53	34	127	161
Totals.....	1162	706	1504	2210

TRADE REFUSE.

The Council undertake the removal of Trade Refuse when requested to do so, and make a small charge for the service. The Trade Refuse from fourteen premises was regularly removed in this way, and the receipts therefrom amounted to £25 2s. 0d.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The whole of the refuse collected in the District is destroyed by fire at the Refuse Destructor Works belonging to the Council. During the year 2,599 tons of refuse were destroyed at a total cost of £370 (including repairs and cartage of clinkers), whilst the gross cost (including loan repayments and interest) was £600. The steam generated by the heat of the Destructor is used for the purposes of Sludge Pressing, Clinker Crushing, Mortar Milling and Steam Disinfecting.

DRAINAGE.

The District is well sewered, and with the exception of some forty-seven houses, the whole of the houses in the District are connected up. Practically the whole of

the unconnected houses occupy positions on the remote outskirts of the District. During the year the small hamlet, known as Farm Fold, consisting of five houses was connected to the main drainage system.

The construction of Combined Drains, in connection with the work of closet conversions, has been discontinued for the period of the war.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been efficiently carried on during the year, and the effluent appears to have given satisfaction to the Mersey and Irwell Joint Rivers' Committee, whose Inspectors visit the Works. A scheme for the provision of Humus Tanks has been prepared for submission to the Local Government Board.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are in the District one dairy, twenty-two cowsheds (seven of which are not occupied), and forty-five milkshops. These premises are registered, and with few exceptions have been found in a cleanly condition. A milk-dealer commenced to use a large stable as a cowshed. The premises were both unregistered and unsuitable for the purpose, and were immediately closed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 registered Slaughter Houses within the District, and whilst some are in undesirable proximity to dwellings, they have all been kept in a cleanly condition. One application was received for a license for the use and occupation of a building as a Slaughter House, but after full consideration of the matter, the Council decided not to accede to the request. On a subsequent occasion slaughtering was found to be taking place on the same premises and proceedings were instituted against four defendants, fines and costs, amounting to the sum of £6 14s. 0d., being inflicted.

During the year the Maintenance of Live Stock Order, 1915, restricting the slaughter of in-calf and in-pig animals and of calves, came into operation. The Order was brought to the notice of all concerned in the District, and is believed to have been strictly observed.

PIGSTIES.

Pigs are kept at several places in the District, mostly under satisfactory conditions. During the month of December a severe outbreak of Swine Fever occurred at a pig farm, but prompt action on the part of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries prevented spread of the infection to other farms in the locality. Out of 61 pigs slaughtered twenty-five were found to be infected, and the carcasses destroyed at the Refuse Destructor, the remaining 36 carcasses being disposed of for food. No complaints in respect of pig-keeping have been received during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are twenty-six registered Bakehouses in the District, including one underground Bakehouse, and these have generally been well kept. Structural defects at two Bakehouses and want of cleanliness, etc., at three others have been brought to the attention of the owners and remedied.

FOODSTUFFS.

The inspection of meat, foodstuffs, &c., has not necessitated any legal proceedings being instituted, and no complaints have arisen. Thirteen sacks of unsound potatoes were seized and destroyed, also one ton of decomposed preserves.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only scheduled "Offensive Trades" carried on in the District are the trades of Tripe Boiler, Fish Frier, and dealer in Rags and Bones, and these have been conducted during the year without causing any nuisance.

Byelaws should be framed for the regulation of scheduled Offensive Trades in this District. A draft of the proposed byelaws should be submitted to the Local Government Board before they are adopted by the Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

155 visits of inspection of factories, workshops and workplaces were made during the year. Eighteen defects were found, and to deal with these eleven Notices were served. Eight matters requiring attention

under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, were notified to H. M. Inspector of Factories, and three acts of neglect or default at factories were reported to the Council by H. M. Inspector for attention.

A satisfactory feature of the year has been the important improvements effected at factories by way of alterations to sanitary conveniences. Improvements have been carried out at seven factories, with the result that 18 insanitary privy closets and 10 pails have been abolished and substituted by 31 fresh-water closets.

Proceedings were instituted by H. M. Inspector of Factories against the owner of one factory and a conviction was obtained.

Two lists of Outworkers were received from Manchester affecting Homeworkers in Droylsden, and these premises were found to be well kept, and in wholesome condition.

No.	Description of Works.	No.	Description of Works.
10	Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills	1	Printer
3	Dyers and Bleachers	1	Shoe Manufacturer
3	Chemical Manufacturers	1	Mineral Water Manufacturer
1	Cement Manufacturer	2	Coach Builders
1	Steam Laundry	1	Textile Machinery Manufacturer
1	Hand Laundry	1	Basket Manufacturer
1	Iron Foundry	1	Mews
2	Tin Smiths	2	Tripe Boilers
2	Shoeing & General Smiths	2	Fodder Stores
4	Plumbers	3	Tailors
3	Painters	2	Dressmakers and Milliners
4	Builders' Yards	2	Station Goods Yards
1	Gas Works	26	Bakehouses
1	Grocers' Sundries Manufacturer	1	Sterilized Milk Depôt
2	Pickle and Preserve Manufacturers	13	Coal Depôts
1	Cask Maker	10	Slaughter-houses
1	Brickworks	22	Shippons and Farmsteads
1	Rubber Goods Manufacturer	1	Sewage Disposal Works
1	Engineering Tool Works	1	Refuse Destructor Works
1	Cycle Manufacturer	137	

In spite of indifferent health and his share of the extra duties imposed on a Local Authority by the war Mr. Frank Schofield, the Inspector of Nuisances, has put in some long hours of hard work, and I must express my gratitude to him for his ever ready help in all matters relating to the Health Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. G. P. ILDERTON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

Table 2.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1915.

Notifiable Disease	At all Ages.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Removed to Hospital	
		At Ages—Years.									
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards			
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup)	8	1	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	14	...	1	3	1	3	6	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	50	...	17	32	1	...	...	...	...	11
Enteric Fever	26	1	1	4	10	8	2	...	...	4
Puerperal Fever...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	47	...	2	4	9	22	9	1	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	21	...	2	11	4	3	1	...	...	...
 Totals.....	170	4	24	59	27	37	18	1	16		

Table 3.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1915.

Cause of Death. 1	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths, whether "Residents" or "Non- Residents," in Institu- tions in the District (b). 11
	All Ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 2 years 4	2 and under 5 years 5	5 and under 15 years 6	15 and under 25 years 7	25 and under 45 years 8	und under 65 years 9	45 and under 65 years 10	65 and upwards	
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
All Causes { Certified...	227	41	6	10	10	8	38	47	67		
Causes { Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...		
Measles.....	5	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough..	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1		
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1		
Phthisis (Pulmon- ary Tuberculosis)	22	...	...	...	2	4	7	7	2		
Tuberculous Men- ingitis	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	1	...	1	1	1	1	1	...		
Cancer, malignant disease	15	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	5		
Rheumatic Fever..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Meningitis	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	8	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	2		
Bronchitis.....	38	8	1	...	...	...	5	9	15		
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	2	...	4	1	...	...	2	2		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver..	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1		
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease..	8	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	2		
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Congenital Debili- ty and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth..	18	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, ex- cluding Suicide...	5	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	1		
Other Defined Dis- eases	25	...	1	...	...	...	5	5	14		
Diseases ill-defined or unknown.....	36	1	1	1	2	1	2	7	21		
Totals	227	41	6	10	10	8	38	47	67		

Table 4 — Infant Mortality.

1915. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

TABLE IX.

Factories Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework

1—Inspection.

INCLUDING INSPECTION MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecut'ns
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	92	3	1
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	53	7	0
Workplaces	10	1	0
Total	155	11	1

2—Defects Found.

Particulars	No. of Defects			
	Found	Reme- died	R'd to H. M. I'spcr.	No. of Prosecu- tions
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	3	3		1
Want of Ventilation	—	—		
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of Drainage of Floors	1	1		
Other Nuisances	4	4		
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient	—	—		
Accommodation { Unsuitable or Defective	4	4		
Accommodation { Not separate for sexes	—	—		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakeries (s 101)	—	—		
Breach of special Sanitary requirements for Bakeries (ss 97 to 100)	5	5		
Other Offences	—	—		
Total	18	18		1

TABLE IX.—continued.

3—Homework.

	Class		Number
List of Addresses of Outworkers	received from other Councils	2	
	forwarded to other Councils	—	
Inspections of Outworkers premises :— Making Wearing Apparel		7	

4—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

Important Classes of Workshops	Hand Laundry	1
	Tin, Shoeing and other Smiths	4
	Plumbers	4
	Builders' Yards	4
	Pickle Manufacturers	1
	Cask Maker	1
	Printer	1
	Bakehouses	26
	Coach Builders	2
	Tailors, &c.	5
	Others	11
Total number of Workshops on Register		60

5—Other Matters.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories

Failure to Affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	.. .. .. .. ..	8
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspector	3
	Reports of Action taken sent to H.M. Inspector	3
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—		
Certificates granted during the year	.. .. ..
In use at the end of the year		1

